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ABSTRACT

The American Library Association and the American Association of School Administrators have worked together for many years to address issues surrounding public school censorship and academic freedom. The purpose of this book is to provide educators and citizens alike with information essential to sustaining the free marketplace of ideas in education. Topics covered in this volume include a survey of censorship in schools; arenas of conflict in the schools; key issues and concerns around which censorship controversies have occurred; how to establish selection policies; how to handle a complaint; a review of the laws regarding censorship in schools; and a checklist for a school system to prepare for and respond to censorship efforts. Included in the appendices are several interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights as it relates to access to library and media resources and services, free access to libraries for minors, and diversity in collection development; tips and samples for writing a selection policy; guidelines for student publications; tips for dealing with concerns about library resources; a selected list of concerned national organizations; summaries of selected legal cases; and a selected, annotated bibliography on the First Amendment and intellectual freedom. (JLB)

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